

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising the steps of:

(a) positioning a display medium at a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes, wherein the display medium displays optotypes of different sizes to provide an indication of visual acuity at one of a plurality of vision levels, and wherein the sizes of the optotypes are calibrated for display at the predetermined distance;

(b) individually presenting a plurality of optotypes from a set of optotypes for the patient to view from the predetermined distance; and

(c) for each optotype displayed to the patient, requesting the patient to find a matching optotype on a reference card, wherein a correct match indicates that the patient is able to see the optotype on the display medium.

2. The method of conducting a vision examination according to claim 1, further comprising the step of using a string attached to the display medium to measure a predetermined distance for positioning the display medium at the predetermined distance from the patient's eyes.

3. The method of conducting a vision examination according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined distance is approximately one meter.

4. The method of conducting a vision examination according to claim 1, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye covered at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

5. The method of conducting a vision examination according to claim 1, wherein the set of optotypes includes four optotypes for each particular vision level, and the patient is screened for each particular vision level by correcting matching at least three out of four optotypes for that vision level.

6. The method of conducting a vision examination according to claim 5, wherein the patient can be screened for amblyopia by determining whether the patient can correctly match at least three out of four optotypes at a vision level of 20/30.

7. A method of conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising the steps of:

(a) measuring a predetermined distance from the patient, wherein the predetermined distance is sufficient to evaluate distance vision;

(b) positioning a set of display cards at the predetermined distance from the patient's eyes, wherein each display card contains an optotype of a size calibrated for display at the predetermined distance, and wherein the optotypes are of different sizes to provide an indication of visual acuity at one of a plurality of particular vision levels;

(c) selecting a display card from the set of display cards;

(d) displaying the selected display card and requesting the patient to identify the optotype on the display card; and

(e) receiving an attempted identification of the optotype from the patient,

wherein the steps (c), (d), and (e) are repeated until a sufficient number of optotypes have been displayed to screen the patient for a particular vision disorder.

8. A vision screening apparatus for use by an examiner for screening vision in a patient to detect vision disorders, comprising:

(a) a display medium for displaying optotypes of varying sizes, calibrated to indicate an assessment of visual acuity, wherein the display medium is to be positioned at a predetermined distance from the patient; and

(b) a reference card displaying a set of optotypes corresponding to the optotypes provided on the display medium, to be positioned at a close distance from the patient to enable the patient to point to an optotype on the reference card that matches the optotype displayed on the display medium,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least a minimum distance from the patient to measure distance vision, and is less than a maximum distance by which the examiner can be in close proximity to both the display medium and the reference card, and

whereby the examiner monitors responses from the patient at the reference card to determine whether the patient is able to see the optotypes displayed on the display medium.

9. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the display medium further comprises a measuring device for enabling the examiner to position the display medium at the predetermined distance from the patient.

10. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the measuring device is a string of length equal to the predetermined distance.

11. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the measuring device is an electronic distance sensor.

12. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined distance is approximately one meter.

13. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the vision screening apparatus is portable.

14. The vision screening apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined distance is sufficient to enable the examiner to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

15. A portable vision screening apparatus for use by an examiner for screening vision in a patient to detect vision disorders, comprising:

- (a) a series of display cards attached to a base as a flip chart, wherein each card displays an optotype calibrated to indicate an assessment of visual acuity at a particular vision level when viewed from a predetermined distance; and
- (b) a string attached to the base having a length equal to the predetermined distance, wherein the predetermined distance is of at least a minimum length to measure distance vision to enable detection of vision disorders.

16. The portable vision screening apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined distance is approximately one meter in length.

17. The portable vision screening apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

- (c) a reference card displaying optotypes matching the optotypes provided on the display cards, whereby a patient points to the optotype on the reference card that corresponds with the optotype displayed on the display card.

18. The portable vision screening apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the set of display cards contains four optotypes for each particular vision level, and the child is screened for each particular vision level by correcting matching on the reference card at least three out of four optotypes for that vision level.

19. The portable vision screening apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the vision levels include 20/100, 20/50, and 20/30.

20. The portable vision screening apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision to detect amblyopia.